

## CLAIMS

I claim:

1. An acoustic musical instrument, comprising:
  - a head having a tensioning device attached thereto;
  - a fingerboard extending from the head, the fingerboard having a plurality of frets;
  - a hollow body extending from the fingerboard and having a sounding board, a bottom board, and at least one side extending between the sounding board and the bottom board, the hollow body defining a sound chamber, the sounding board having a top surface and a bottom surface;
  - a bridge attached to the top surface of the sounding board;
  - a plurality of tone bars attached to the bottom surface of the sounding board;
  - a string block extending between two of the tone bars and spaced from said sounding board;
  - at least one string having a first end attached to the tensioning device and having a second end; and
  - means for anchoring the second end of the at least one string to the string block.

1           2.    The acoustic musical instrument of claim 1, wherein  
2 said acoustic musical instrument is a guitar.

1           3.    The acoustic musical instrument of claim 2, wherein  
2 said at least one string is a steel string.

1           4.    The acoustic musical instrument according to claim 1,  
2 wherein said bridge further comprises a bridge plate having an  
3 aperture defined therein, said sounding board having an aperture  
4 defined therein aligned with the aperture defined in the bridge  
5 plate, said at least one string passing through the aligned  
6 aperture and being attached to said string block.

1           5.    The acoustic musical instrument of claim 1, wherein  
2 said means for anchoring comprises a peg extending through said  
3 bridge and said sounding board and being fixed in said string  
4 block.

1        6. A method of stringing a musical instrument, comprising  
2 the steps of:

3        anchoring a first end of each of a plurality of strings to  
4 a string block, the string block being spaced from and  
5 positioned beneath a sounding board; and

6        attaching a second end of each of said plurality of strings  
7 to a tensioning device.

      7. The method of claim 6, wherein said anchoring step  
further comprises inserting a peg into an aperture formed in  
10 said string block.